

a simple increase of income would remedy all evils, and from that of the thoroughgoing Eugenist on the other. The evidence supports neither extreme, but seems to indicate that the current teaching gives too much rather than too little weight to the environmental factors which, theoretically at least, it might be possible to remedy by economic adjustments." (p. 305). When first reading these remarks we were inclined to urge that our society is imperatively called on to make a careful study of the mental attributes of the "thoroughgoing Eugenist." There would, however, be great difficulties in the way of any such investigation, for no perfect specimen of this species is known to us; that is if an entire disregard of all the effects of environment is, as we understand, a specific quality. Those of us who make no claim whatever to be 'throughgoing' will find the conclusion arrived at by these able investigators not only exceedingly interesting but also fully in accord with our belief that in all circumstances both heredity and environment must always be taken into account.

LEONARD DARWIN.

Moseley, Sydney. *The Truth about Borstal.* Cecil Palmer, London, 1926. pp. 165. Price 6s.

The Borstal System represents a serious attempt to grapple with the problem of the youthful delinquent. It has now been in operation for nearly 25 years and during that period many important changes have been made in its working. It is not intended for boys and girls, as is generally supposed, but for what are technically known as "juvenile adults," that is to say offenders of both sexes between the ages of 16 and 21. Nor is it intended for beginners in crime, but only for those of "criminal *habits* or *tendencies*." Its object is to save young persons of such habits or tendencies from developing into confirmed criminals. Its actual working has from time to time been attacked in unmeasured terms by certain newspapers, and it has been asserted that instead of being an engine for reform it is simply an engine of repression, and that, instead of saving young offenders from a life of crime, it actually manufactures criminals.

Mr. Sydney Moseley set out to investigate these charges personally and the results of his investigations are given in this book. He appears to have brought a very open mind to his self-imposed task, and, on the whole, the account he gives of the system, as now worked, is reassuring. Broadly stated, his conclusion is that, whilst the attacks on the system were at one time fully justified, they are so no longer; but that, since the introduction of new men and new methods, the experiment deserves every encouragement.

Mr. Moseley does not write as a eugenist and makes no express reference to heredity as one of the causes of juvenile delinquency; but there is much in the book to confirm the view that heredity is one of the most potent factors in the development of the criminal, and eugenists would do well to pay special attention to the inmates of Borstal Institutions. Everything points to the conclusion that the mentality of a very large number, if not the majority, of these is either definitely sub-normal or on the border line, and that such mentality is due to heredity. This would fully account for the very large

number of cases in which Borstal Institutions have failed in their object of turning potential criminals into useful citizens: such failures are only to be expected when so much of the material with which they have to deal is of this kind. The system is intended for those whose delinquency is due to environmental influences and not for mental defectives, and there is therefore nothing surprising in the fact that, notwithstanding the provision made by the Borstal Association for their after-care, so many of those discharged from Borstal Institutions lapse within a short period into a life of crime. There is ground for suspecting that very many of those dealt with, though not actually certifiable, are degenerates who ought never to be permitted to become parents, and one would like to see the system supplemented by the adoption of some plan for dealing with this class.

Mr. Moseley is to be congratulated on having grasped the principle that punishment should be made to fit the criminal rather than the crime, or, in other words, that more attention should be paid to what the offender *is* than to what he has *done*.

Great credit is due to him for the care with which he has conducted his investigation and for the fair-minded presentation of his conclusions.

R. E. MOORE.

Porteus, S. D. *Temperament and Mentality in Maturity, Sex, and Race.* Reprinted from *The Journal of Applied Psychology*, Vol. VIII., No. 1, March, 1924.

Professor Porteus is Director of Research at the Psychological Laboratory of the Training School at Vineland, N.J., and this address was given to the Clinical Society of Surgeons at the Wistar Institute of Anatomy, Philadelphia.

Criticising the "intelligence tests" in common use, which fail to show any significant mental differences between males and females, adults and fourteen-year-olds, or races, Porteus observes that the tests are really directed towards the ascertainment of *learning capacity*. But it is in the capacity for all-round adjustments to life's situations—"Progressive adaptability"—that the man excels the woman, the adult the boy, the Japanese the Chinese. Progressive adaptability implies the possession of the temperamental qualities of courage, persistence, and determination in the face of difficulties, of ambition and the will to succeed, of foresight and planning capacity and prudence in the execution of plans. These are the elements of individual and racial superiority.

Ten years ago Porteus devised as a test for these temperamental qualities a series of printed mazes graduated in difficulty, through which the subject must race his way, being penalized in the scoring for mistakes made, while repeated trials are allowed. He now summarizes the results obtained by applying these with other tests to 1,000 children of various races in Hawaii. In learning capacity, as measured by the Stanford-Binet test, there were no very significant differences between the Portuguese, Chinese and Japanese, and no very significant sex differences either. None of these groups at any age measured up to the average of 1,000 children of Anglo-Saxon origin tested in Australia